



# Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia Tech  
Virginia State University  
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service  
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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**Agricultural News:** Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.1. Weather conditions were cooler and precipitation amounts were up; some areas received frost. The rain has helped with planting and pastures. Parts of the state continue to be in D2 (severe drought) conditions. Farming activities for the week included reporting hay loss from the summer drought, harvesting cotton, and planting cover crops.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 10/20/19

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	7	28	62	3
Subsoil	17	47	36	-

- Represents zero.

CROP CONDITIONS for week ending 10/20/19

Crop/Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Cotton	-	2	12	86	-
Hay, Alfalfa	1	21	47	31	-
Hay, Other	11	26	35	28	-
Peanuts	-	-	8	92	-
Soybeans	1	18	42	35	4
Pasture	27	42	24	7	-

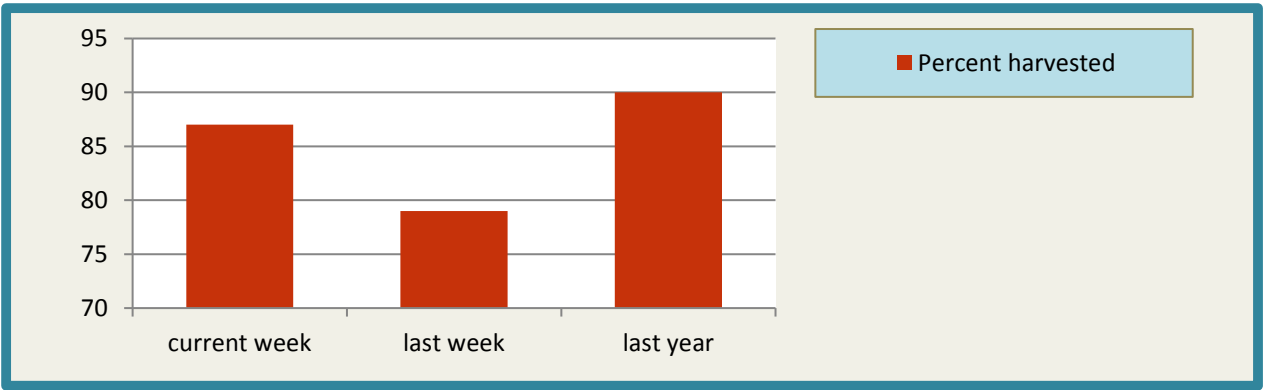
-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 10/20/19

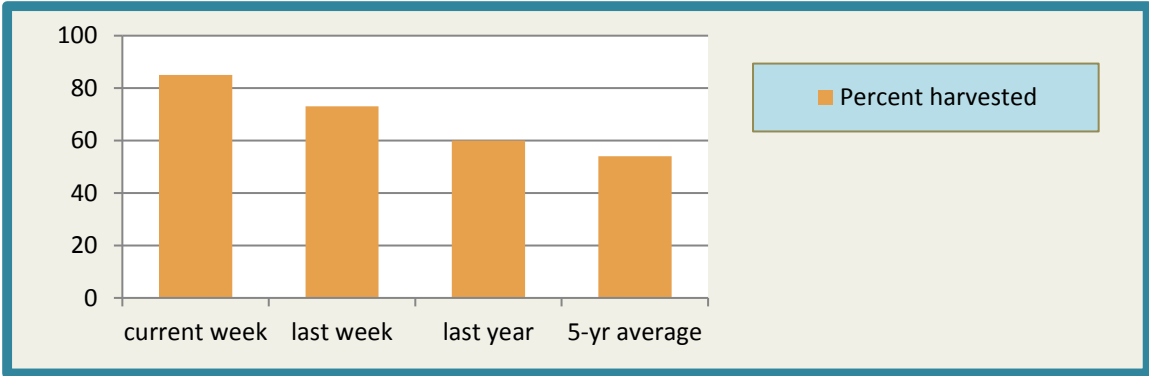
Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Apples harvested	87	79	90	-
Barley planted	62	47	56	60
Corn for grain harvested	96	94	90	84
Cotton harvested	51	38	31	24
Peanuts harvested	85	73	60	54
Soybeans dropping leaves	86	74	79	82
Soybeans harvested	41	28	18	21
Winter Wheat planted	51	44	31	30

-Represents data not available.

APPLES HARVESTED for week ending 10/20/19



PEANUTS HARVESTED for week ending 10/20/19



Weather Summary- For the week ending October 20, 2019

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Oct. 19	Mar. 1 to Oct. 19 Norm	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	67	42	77	35	55	-2	4308	3753	1.28	1.78	-4.35	30.45	-5.37
Norfolk	71	54	82	46	63	1	5031	4202	1.49	5.13	-1.12	40.75	2.31
Richmond	69	46	76	37	57	-2	4762	4069	1.63	2.43	-3.80	36.46	0.00
Roanoke	67	45	76	36	56	-1	4509	NA	1.19	3.18	-2.60	34.67	-0.70
Wash/Dulles	66	42	76	33	54	-2	4176	NA	1.04	1.55	-4.41	31.39	-2.72

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY –** Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

The county received two days of much needed soaking rains. Pasture and hay fields greened up, but grain harvest was delayed. Most of the county had the first heavy frost/freeze on Saturday.

LOUDOUN (Jim Hilleary)

Two days of much needed rain; not enough to significantly change conditions. Pastures should green up though. Left alone, the amount of Jointhead Arthraxon grass residue in stockpile fields will complicate cool-season grass growth through the winter and into the spring. The residue is likely to also impact effective broadcast frost/over seeding.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas Stanley)

Corn harvest proceeded rapidly in Rockbridge this week with continued dry conditions, and reports of infield grain moisture levels well under 15%. The first scattered frost occurred for most of Rockbridge Saturday morning. The week ended with significant rain Saturday night into Sunday morning from a tropical system coming from the south. Most of Rockbridge received between 1 and 1.5 inches of rain.

BATH/HIGHLAND (Jennifer Matosky)

Finally got some rain, which greened things up. A heavy windstorm one night took some trees down. Getting to the low 30s at night.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Laura Siegle)

The rain we received this week is certainly helpful and we will see some grass and pasture recovery from it, but this will not mitigate losses to crop yields stemming from our preceding dry period. We will gauge more of these losses as producers conduct harvest.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

An average of 1.8" of slow rainfall on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> replenished the topsoil with moisture, and will now allow producers to plant small grains and cover crops.

**CAMPBELL (Todd Scott)**

Soybeans in the field look decent, but late beans have lower yields and small beans in the pods due to weather conditions. Many farmers have been feeding hay to cattle since August, and they are concerned about hay supplies for the winter. Most are not used to feeding hay to cattle this early. We have received about an inch of rain (10/16/19). It helped some, but much more is needed. Grass may start to grow some, but if we get a frost then I don't look for much grass production.

**EASTERN**

**KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)**

An average of 1.8" of slow rainfall on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> replenished the topsoil with moisture, and will now allow producers to plant small grains and cover crops.

**CHARLES CITY (Scott Reiter)**

Rain events this week have restored top soil moisture. A mid-week rain (0.5-1 inch) was welcome by growers to allow small grain and grass seeding to start. The 3-4 inches from Nestor remnants were not as welcome as this will stall soybean harvest and seeding for at least a week or more. Some soybeans and cotton were harvested this week between rain showers. Cover crop and wheat seeding made some progress as well.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)**

Weather conditions remain drier than normal even though some rain did fall at the end of the week. Hay supplies are very tight. The yield from the second cutting of hay was very small.

**GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

Moisture from Nestor this weekend along with a cold front early in the week brought much needed rain to the county. The county also experienced patchy frost for the first time this autumn. Fall forage stocks continue to be a concern for livestock owners. Pumpkin harvest is wrapping up, and the focus will soon shift to Christmas tree harvest.

**SMYTH (Andy Overbay)**

Some rain has fallen and was very welcome, but the onset of frost will signal an end to much recovery of grasses in pasture.

**WISE (Phil Meeks)**

Wise County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution on Oct. 10, 2019, citing agricultural losses due to the drought, especially in regards to hay and pasture.

**SOUTHERN**

**FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)**

Franklin County saw rain on Thursday and again over the weekend, finally! Farmers are reporting hay loss from the summer drought; some are reporting over 85% hay loss because of dry conditions. Beans are being harvested slowly.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**GREENSVILLE (Sara Rutherford)**

All parts of the county received rain on Wednesday with more forecasted in the area on Sunday. The planting of small grains continues including winter wheat, triticale, and oats, and will benefit greatly from recent rains.

**CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)**

Rain showers and cooler temps arrived this week. Most crops are on schedule as far as harvest.

**PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

Rain events this week have restored top soil moisture. A mid-week rain (0.5-1 inch) was welcome by growers to allow small grain and grass seeding to start. The 3-4 inches from Nestor remnants were not as welcome as this will stall soybean harvest and seeding for at least a week or more. Some soybeans and cotton were harvested this week between rain showers. Cover crop and wheat seeding made some progress as well.